

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A card access apparatus that is adapted to be connected to a plurality of types of cards, the apparatus comprising:

a single slot adapted to accommodate the plurality of types of cards, said slot comprising:

a plurality of connection points adapted for the respective types of cards; and

a plurality of signal buses that connects the connection points to a card control unit;

wherein when one type of the types of cards is inserted in the slot and connected to one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards, the one type of card including a metal plate on an external surface of the card having an insulator coating applied thereon, at least one of the signal buses connected to at least one of the connection points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards is electrically isolated from said at least one of the connection points, and

wherein data is exchanged between the inserted card and the slot through the one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards in an opening part in the slot, the opening part having the plurality of connection points.

2. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an isolator that is configured to electrically isolate said at least one of the signal buses connected to said at least one of the connection points adapted for said at least one other type of the types of cards from said at least one of the connection points;

wherein when said one type of the types of cards is not connected to said one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in an open state.

3. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein when said one type of the types of cards is connected to said one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in a closed state.

4. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the isolator realizes a separate circuit with respect to the card control unit.

5. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the isolator is integrated into the card control unit.

6. (Currently amended) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~said one type of the types of cards includes a metal plate having an insulator coating applied thereon; and~~

the isolator is provided for said at least one of the signal buses connected to said at least one of the connection points adapted for said at least one other type of the types of cards when there is a risk of a short circuit occurring at said at least one of the connection points adapted for said at least one other type of the types of cards upon connecting said one type of the types of cards to said one of the connection points adapted for said one of the types of cards.

7. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said one type of the types of cards is connected to said one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards by a connecting unit that includes a metal plate having an insulator coating applied thereon; and

the isolator is provided for said at least one of the signal buses connected to said at least one of the connection points adapted for said at least one other type of the types of cards when there is a risk of a short circuit occurring at said at least one of the connection points adapted for said at least one other type of the types of cards upon connecting said one type of the types of cards to said one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards.

8. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the signal buses include a plurality of card detection signal buses for the respective types of cards; and

when at least one card detection signal of at least one of the card detection signal buses for at least one of the types of cards is set to a non-detection state, and the isolator is provided for at least one of the signal buses associated with said at least one of the types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in an open state.

9. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein when said at least one card detection signal of said at least one of the card detection signal buses is set to a card detection state, the isolator is arranged to be in a closed state.

10. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the signal buses include at least one power circuit signal bus, and the isolator is provided for said at least one power circuit signal bus; and

the card control unit controls a power circuit and the isolator to secure a predetermined access period upon detecting a card detection signal state change from a card detection state to a non-detection state in one of the card detection signal buses.

11. (Original) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the signal buses include at least one power circuit signal bus, and the isolator is provided for said at least one power circuit signal bus; and

the card control unit controls a power circuit to prevent access upon detecting a card detection signal state change from a card detection state to a non-detection state in one of the card detection signal buses.

12. (Previously presented) An electronic apparatus comprising:

a card access apparatus that is adapted to be connected to a plurality of types of cards, the card access apparatus comprising:

a single slot adapted to accommodate the plurality of types of cards, said slot comprising:

a plurality of connection points adapted for the respective types of cards; and

a plurality of signal buses that connects the connection points to a card control unit;

wherein when one type of the types of cards is inserted in the slot and connected to one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards, the one type of card including a metal plate on an external surface of the card having an insulator coating applied thereon, at least one of the signal buses connected to at least one of the connection points adapted for at least one other type of the types of cards is electrically isolated from said at least one of the connection points, and

wherein data is exchanged between the inserted card and the slot through the one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the types of cards in an opening part in the slot, the opening part having the plurality of connection points.

13. (New) The card access apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein when said one type of the other type of the types of cards is connected to said one of the connection points adapted for said one type of the other types of cards, the isolator is arranged to be in an open state.